

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02164 041939Z

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: AORG UNDP EAID US

SUBJ: ISVS/UNV MERGER - MEETING OF WORKING
GROUP

1. SUMMARY: TWO-DAY SESSION OF ISVS WORKING GROUP CON-
CLUDED YESTERDAY WITH RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL FOR LIMITED
EXTENSION OF LIFE OF ISVS IN ORDER GIVE SECRETARIAT OPPORTUNITY
DEVELOP ENLARGED COOPERATION AND STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL BASE OF
ORGANIZATION. FINAL DECISION ON MERGER POSTPONED PENDING
EVALUATION OF ABOVE EFFORTS. SECRETARIAT PRECLUDED FORM
DUPLICATING ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANS END
SUMMARY

2. CHAIRMAN OLIVIERI, ARGENTINA, OPENED SESSION WITH SUM-
MARY OF ACTIVITIES TO DATE. FOLLOWING DELEGATIONS WERE IN
ATTENDANCE: ARGENTIAN, AUSTRIA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, DAHOMEY
DENMARK, FRANCE, GERMANY, INDIA, IRAN, ISRAEL, IVORY COAST,
JORDAN, LIBERIA, NETHERLANDS, PANAMA, PHILIPPINES, SWITZERLAND,
THAILAND, UNITED STATES AND ZAIRE. SECRETARY GENERAL ZOLLNER
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02164 041939Z

PRESENTED DOCUMENTATION DEVELOPED BY SECRETARIAT AND COM-

MENCED DISCUSSIONS. MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ALTERNATIVE 1. SURPRISINGLY, INTEREST EXPRESSED IN ALTERNATIVE 3 BY FRG, NETHERLANDS, AND SWITZERLAND. US POSITION STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY DURING FIRST DAY OF SESSION WITH REITERATION OF STATEMENT ON FUTURE CONTRIBUTIONS AS STATED AT SPECIAL SESSION OF COUNCIL, OCTOBER 1973.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY RE ISVS CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS, SG REPORTED THAT BANK DEFICIT REDUCED FROM 330,000 SWISS FRANCS TO 135,000 SECRETARIAT HAS FURTHER CALCULATED THAT REVENUES FORTHCOMING REMAINDER THIS FISCAL YEAR WILL GIVE ORGANIZATION SURPLUS OF 150,000 SWISS FRANCS. PHILLIPINES DELEGATION COMMENTED ON MIRACULOUS FINANCIAL TURN-AROUND.

4. LDC'S LINED UP SOLIDLY BEHIND SG IN OPPOSITION TO MERGER. FRG INTRODUCED NEW IDEA OF "STREAMLINED OPERATION" OF ISVS FOCUSING ON DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES. DANES SILENT THROUGHOUT SESSION WITH EXCEPTION OF DUTCH DELEGATION, WE CLOSE TO BEING ISOLATED ON MERGER ISSUE. IN EFFORT AVOID CONFRONTATION, FRENCH DELEGATION OFFERED COMPROMISE RECOMMENDATION WHICH, AFTER NUMEROUS MODIFICATIONS, CALLED FOR EXTENSION OF LIFE OF ORGANIZATION ENABLING SECRETARY GENERAL TO DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH UN BODIES AND CALLING FOR ALL MEMBER STATES TO EXTEND THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO IMPROVE FINANCIAL POSITION OF ORGANIZATION. RECOMMENDATION, WHICH NOW GOES TO COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION, ALSO PRECLUDES SECRETARIAT FROM ENGAGING IN DUPLICATIVE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANS. RECOMMENDATION BEING POUCHED.

5. CONCLUSION: ALTHOUGH RECOMMENDATION PROPOSES EXTENSION OF LIFE OF ISVS, THE HARD FACTS OF DIMINISHING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES PARTICULARLY US, NETHERLANDS, AND FRG (WHICH ANNOUNCED ITS CONTRIBUTIONS BEYOND 1975 QUESTIONABLE), AS WELL AS THE INCREASED MOMENTUM OF UNV, WHICH NOW ENDEAVORING TO ENGAGE IN DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, WILL IN ALL PROBABLY RESULT IN GRADUAL DEMISE OF ISVS. SG WILL OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPT HEAD OFF APPROVAL BY UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL (JUNE SESSION) OF ENLARGED ACTIVITIES FOR UNB BUT ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT UNV EXPANSION INEVITABLE. END CONCLUSION
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 02164 041939Z

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